

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/287

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C12Q 1/00, 1/34; G01N 33/53  
US CL : 435/4, 7.71, 7.72, 18

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 435/4, 7.71, 7.72, 18

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,258,605 B1 (CHACE) 10 July 2001 (10.07.2001), column 1, lines 36-55 and column 5, line 60-column 8, line 49	1-57
Y	US 5,719,035 (ROSENTHAL et al) 17 February 1998 (17.02.1998), column 4, lines 12-63	1-57
Y	IM, W.B. et al. Bacterial Degradation of Biotin. J. Biol. Chem. Volo. 248, No.22, p.7798-7805, especially p. 7798, 7799 and 7801.	1-57
Y	US 6,455,321 B1 (CHACE) 24 September 2002 (24.09.2002), column 6, line 9-column 10, line 57	1-57
A	US 5,629,210 (HERCULES et al) 13 May 1997 (13.05.1997), column 1, lines 15-42.	1-57
A, P	US 6,670,194 B1 (AEBERSOLD et al) 30 December 2003 (30.12.2003), entire document.	1-57

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 December 2004 (14.12.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

13 JAN 2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Faxsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

Lora E Barnhart

Telephone No. 571-272-1600

DEBORAH A. THOMAS  
PARALEGAL SPECIALIST  
GROUP 1000 *def*